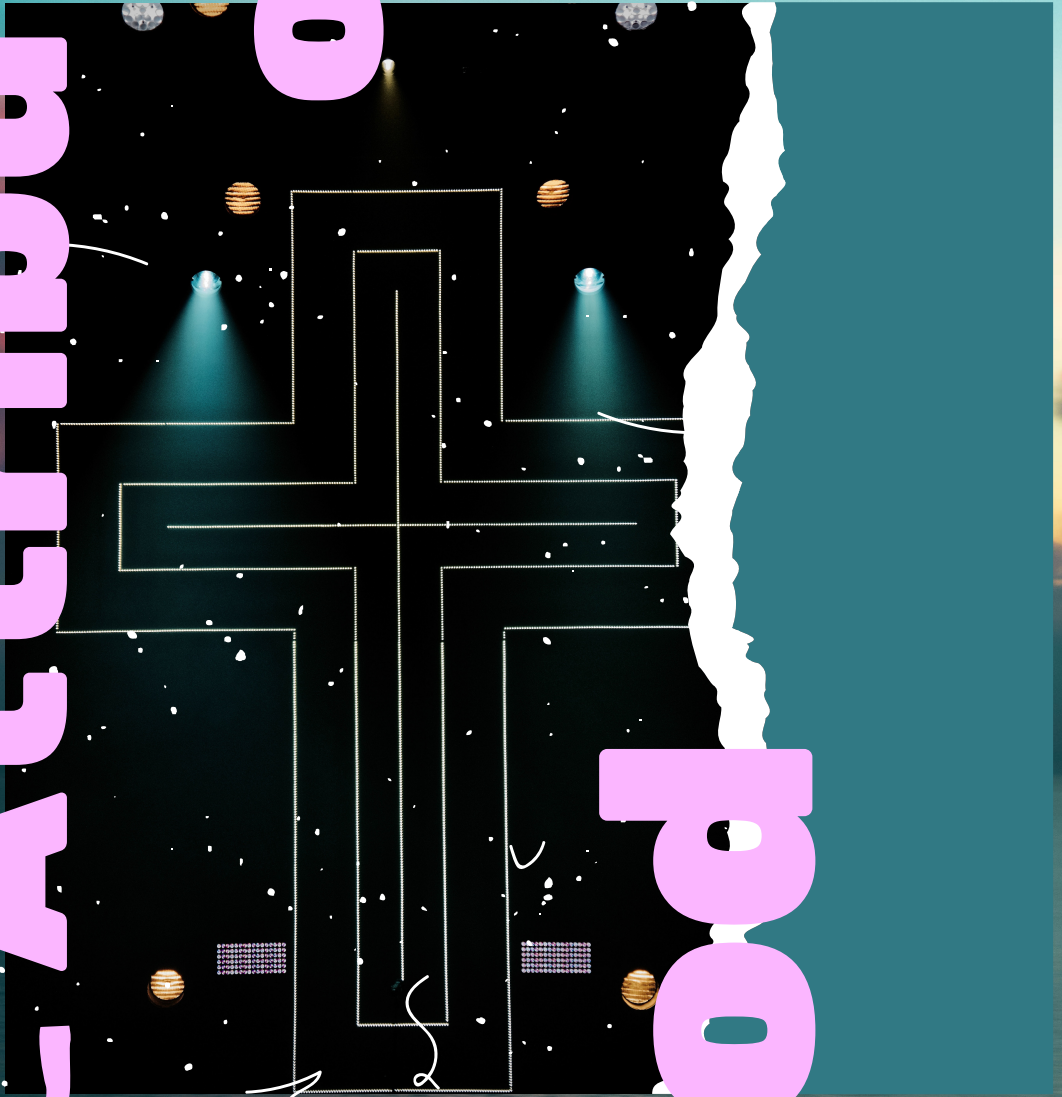


DOULOS FALL 2021

Attributes of Good



Attributes of God

DOULOS FALL 2021

BIBLE STUDY METHODS	3
Week 1 GOD IS FREE Isaiah 40:12-26	7
Week 2 GOD IS OMNIPOTENT Psalm 46 and Ephesians 3:14-20	13
Week 3 GOD IS OMNIPRESENT Psalm 139:1-18	19
Week 4 GOD IS OMNISCIENT Romans 8:18-30	25
Week 5 GOD IS IMMUTABLE Hebrews 6:9-20	31
Week 6 GOD IS HOLY Isaiah 6:1-8 and Revelation 15:1-4	37
Week 7 GOD IS FAITHFUL Lamentations 3:19-31	43
Week 8 GOD IS TRUE John 8:31-47	49
Week 9 GOD IS GRACIOUS Ephesians 1:1-14	55
Week 10 GOD IS LOVING 1 Corinthians 13	61

BIBLE STUDY METHODS

PURPOSE: This packet is designed to help us learn methods that will aid in our study of the Bible. These methods fit under three fundamental skills: observe, interpret, and apply. Hopefully as you practice these methods, your time studying the Bible will become more worshipful and meaningful. Listed below are the methods and purpose of each section to guide you in your weekly study.

PRAY (How will I understand?): Before each Bible study, our process should always start in prayer. We are utterly dependent upon God to reveal His will to us. Without God working in our hearts and minds as we study, the Bible becomes mere knowledge. The Holy Spirit is needed in order to turn knowledge into wisdom.

OBSERVATIONS & KEY THEMES (What do I see?): Before we can interpret the meaning of a passage, it's important that we first make observations in the verses we're reading. Take note of the grammatical, literary, and cultural elements of the passage. This involves considering key words, verbs, and connecting words, as well as the who, what, when, why, and how's of the passage.

What are the main literary elements of the passage (key words, repeated words, connecting words)? What are some of the key themes of the passage (Central truth of the passage, one sentence summaries)? What are some interpretive questions?

Examples:

Who is... Who is Paul talking about? Who is accomplishing the task? Who is benefiting from the action?

Why did... Why did Paul choose this word? Why did James include this phrase, statement? Why did Peter connect these ideas? Why did Paul not say _____?

What is the... What is the meaning of this word? What is the significance of this phrase? What is the implication of this statement? What is the relationship between these phrases?

How... How was this action accomplished? How will this situation occur?

BIBLE STUDY METHODS

INTERPRET (What does it mean?) After careful observation we can start trying to interpret what a certain verse or passage means. Our goal should be to determine what the author was saying to the original audience. We do this by using the context, defining key words, studying cross-references, comparing multiple translations, and wrestling with the text individually as well as communally. Commentaries such as *The New Illustrated Bible Commentary* or many others can be helpful, as well as websites like biblestudytools.com in order to study the original languages for deeper understanding.

APPLICATION (How does it work? How does this apply to my life?): Application is the last and most important step in Bible study. After we've established what the author was trying to communicate to the original audience, we can apply these truths to our own lives. Through prayer and reflection, think through key principles learned in the passage you've studied. Ask yourself questions such as:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?

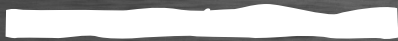
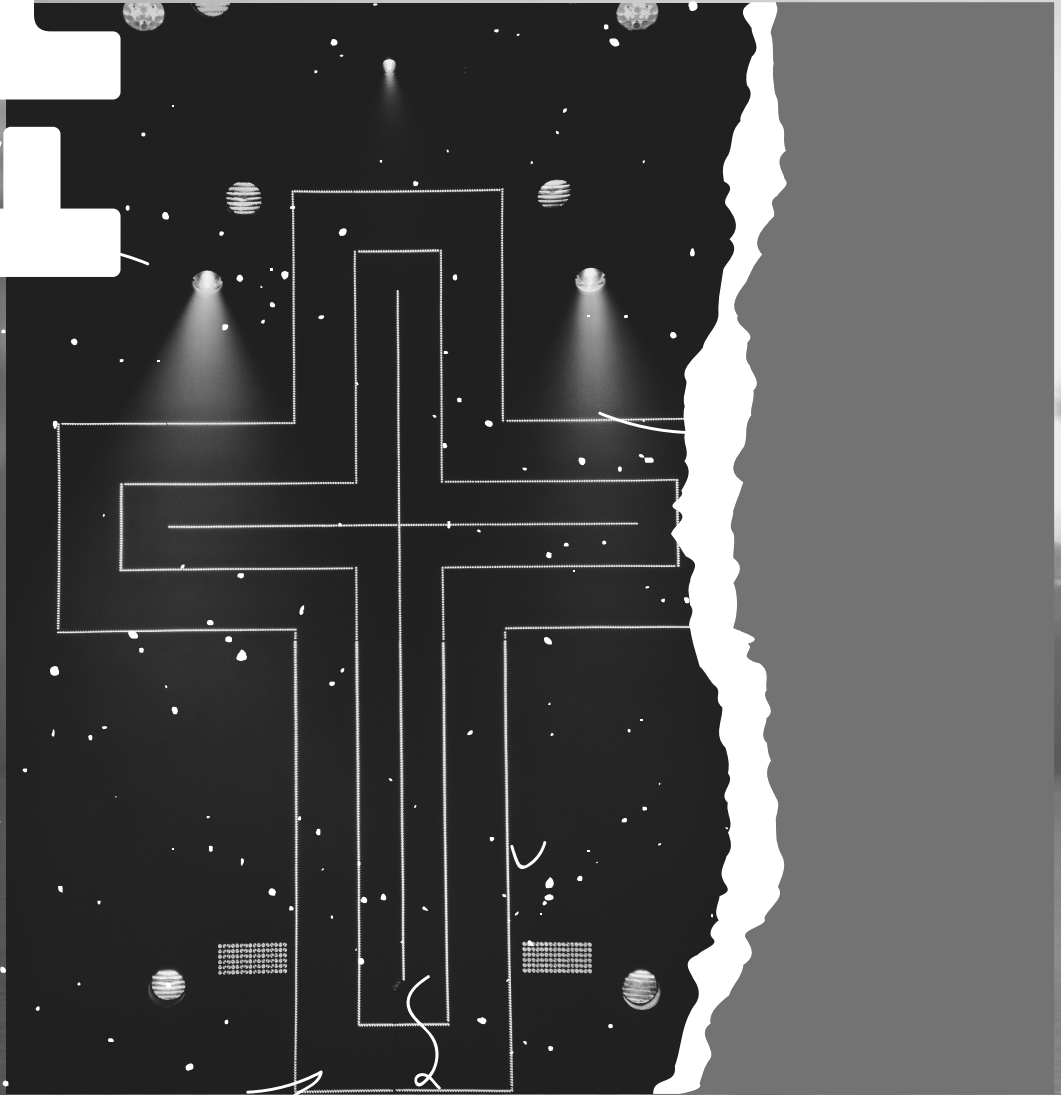
Is there something I need to pray for specifically this week? Is there any relationship I need to work on?

What exactly will I do differently this week to apply this principle to my life? Whom, other than the Lord, will I ask to help me follow through with this application?

Context (What's the big idea?): This involves grasping the big picture of the passage before diving into the interpretation of individual verses. This entails reading the whole section, chapter, or book of whatever you're studying in order to understand the author's flow of thought, as well as overall idea. *What happened right before, or right after the verses you are studying?* [Note: Each week's study includes notes for the passages you'll cover in your groups. These are included to help you grasp the pertinent context. Be sure to review them.]

WEEK 1

Free



GETTING STARTED

FREE: God is not bound by anything outside Himself. He can do anything He desires, free from external limitation.

Isaiah 40:12-26 Context Notes:

This passage was written by the prophet Isaiah who lived and prophesied in the Southern Kingdom of Judah beginning in 739 BC. This was a time of extraordinary political and spiritual struggle in Judah. During Isaiah's lifetime, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was besieged and conquered by the Assyrians. Though Judah repelled the Assyrians when they attacked, Isaiah feared that they would also fall to their enemies if they did not repent and turn from their wickedness.

In the book, Isaiah brings charges against God's people listing their sins and warning them of coming judgement for their faithlessness. However, Isaiah is also confident that one day God would send a savior, a messiah ("anointed one") to establish God's Kingdom on earth and to save his people from their sins.

Chapters 1-39 are primarily announcements of judgement for sin. But, chapter 40 begins a new section in the book where the prophet comforts the people as he speaks of a coming restoration by God. In v. 12-26 Isaiah encourages the people by observing the majesty, wonder, and uniqueness of God who is without an equal.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

ISAIAH 40:12-26 (NASB)

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
 And marked off the heavens by the span,
 And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,
 And weighed the mountains in a balance
 And the hills in a pair of scales?
¹³ Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,
 Or as His counselor has informed Him?
¹⁴ With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding?
 And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge
 And informed Him of the way of understanding?
¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
 And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
 Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.
¹⁶ Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,
 Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before Him,
 They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.
¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God?
 Or what likeness will you compare with Him?
¹⁹ As *for* the idol, a craftsman casts it,
 A goldsmith plates it with gold,
 And a silversmith *fashions* chains of silver.
²⁰ He who is too impoverished for *such* an offering
 Selects a tree that does not rot;
 He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman
 To prepare an idol that will not totter.
²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard?
 Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²² It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
 And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
 Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
 And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
²³ He *it is* who reduces rulers to nothing,
 Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
²⁴ Scarcely have they been planted,
 Scarcely have they been sown,
 Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
 But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
 And the storm carries them away like stubble.
²⁵ "To whom then will you liken Me
 That I would be *his* equal?" says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high
 And see who has created these *stars*,
 The One who leads forth their host by number,
 He calls them all by name;
 Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His* power,
 Not one *of them* is missing.

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage? Did you learn anything new about God? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What does this passage say about God?

How does this knowledge of God affect me? Why should I care?

What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 2

Omnipotent



GETTING STARTED

OMNIPOTENT: God is all-powerful. He has the power to do anything He chooses, yet, He never chooses to do anything outside of his holy will.

Psalm 46 Context Notes:

The book of the Psalms is a collection of 150 individual poetic pieces of literature originally intended to be sung to music. Many of the Psalms maintain directions to musicians and choir directions about the performance of each piece. The Psalms cover a variety of topics, tones, themes expertly crafted to communicate the deepest passions in the hearts of their authors. Yet, despite the uniqueness and individuality of each psalm, one common element unites them: *praise of Yahweh*.

The book that we call “Psalms” is like the prayerbook or the songbook of God’s people as they await the coming Messiah and his Kingdom. These songs were designed to be sung as prayers to Yahweh everywhere from the temple to the dinner table as a means of applying the theology of the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible) to the situations and circumstances of life through the medium of song.

Some commentators suggest that Psalm 46 was written by King Hezekiah after God delivered Judah from the Assyrian invasion under Sennacherib (see 2 Kings 18-19). Whether or not this is true, it's clear the author is calling his praise God for his power to defend them from their enemy.

Ephesians 3:14-20 Context Notes:

Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians to explain how the Gospel radically transforms how we relate to others, especially those of races and backgrounds, and to encourage his readers to boldly display their new identity in Christ in how they live their lives. Paul is especially concerned to underline unity as a primary emphasis of the new covenant community created by Christ.

In 3:14-20 Paul is communicating his confidence in God to do what he previously would have thought was impossible-- unite Jews and Gentiles together in one body. The point is that God is powerful enough to overcome what would have previously be considered irreconcilable differences between these two groups.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

PSALM 46 (NASB)

46 God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change

And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

³Though its waters roar *and* foam,

Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. *Selah.*

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

The holy dwelling places of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;

He raised His voice, the earth melted.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold. *Selah.*

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,

Who has wrought desolations in the earth.

⁹He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;

He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;

He burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰“Cease *striving* and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold. *Selah.*

EPHESIANS 3:14-20 (NASB)

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us...

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage? Did you learn anything new about God? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What does this passage say about God?

How does this knowledge of God affect me? Why should I care?

What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 3

! Omnipresent



GETTING STARTED

OMNIPRESENT: God is everywhere present. He is everywhere, always, completely present in his creation, sustaining it by His power, yet distinct from it.

Psalm 139:1-18 Context Notes:

[See notes from Psalm 46 on pg. 13 for description of the book of Psalms]

In this Psalm, David exclaims the praise of God for his intimate knowledge and omnipresence with his people. As he considers the impossibility to flee from God, he models total surrender as he invites God to search him and purge him from sin.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

PSALM 139:1-18 (NASB)

139 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You understand my thought from afar.

³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down,

And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold, O LORD, You know it all.

⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before,

And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;

It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,

And the light around me will be night,"

¹² Even the darkness is not dark to You,

And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

¹³ For You formed my inward parts;

You wove me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You,

When I was made in secret,

And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Your book were all written

The days that were ordained *for me*,

When as yet there was not one of them.

¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.

When I awake, I am still with You.

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

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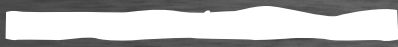
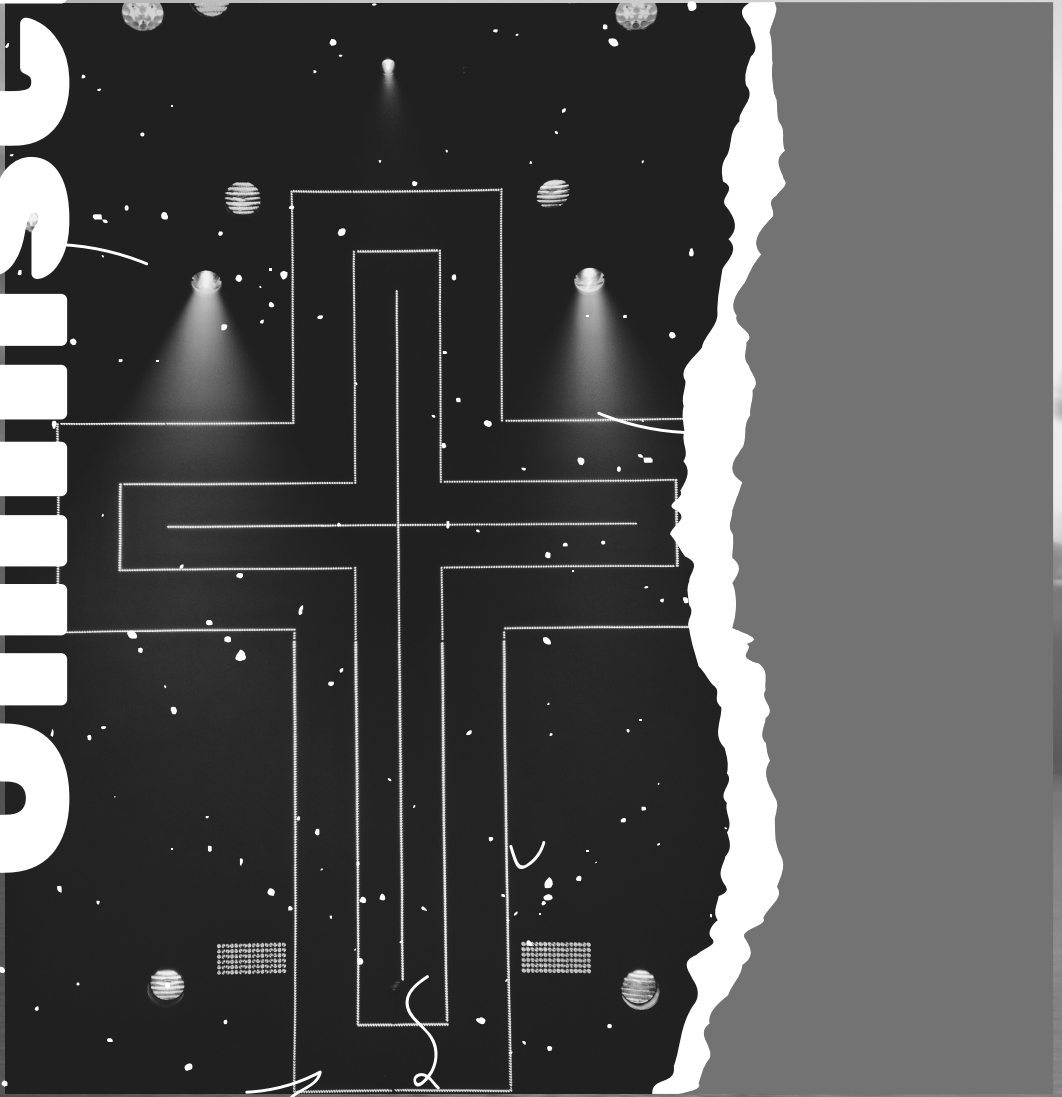
What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 4

Omniscient



GETTING STARTED

OMNISCIENT: God is all-knowing. He knows fully all things past, present, and future.

Romans 8:18-30 Context Notes:

Paul wrote the book of Romans to encourage a group of Jewish and Gentile believers living in Rome and to explain the theological and practical implications of the gospel for the new covenant community. His primary concern is to explain how Christ, in his death and resurrection, creates a new people--the Church--that is united by his love and sacrifice.

In Chapter 8, Paul is explaining the benefits of faith in Christ for those who trust in his salvation. In v. 18-30, he outlines God's plan of redemption in order to encourage believers with the hope we have because of God's wisdom and knowledge on issues ranging from cosmic to personal.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

ROMANS 8:18-30 (NASB)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage? Did you learn anything new about God? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What does this passage say about God?

How does this knowledge of God affect me? Why should I care?

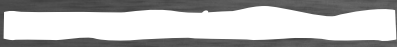
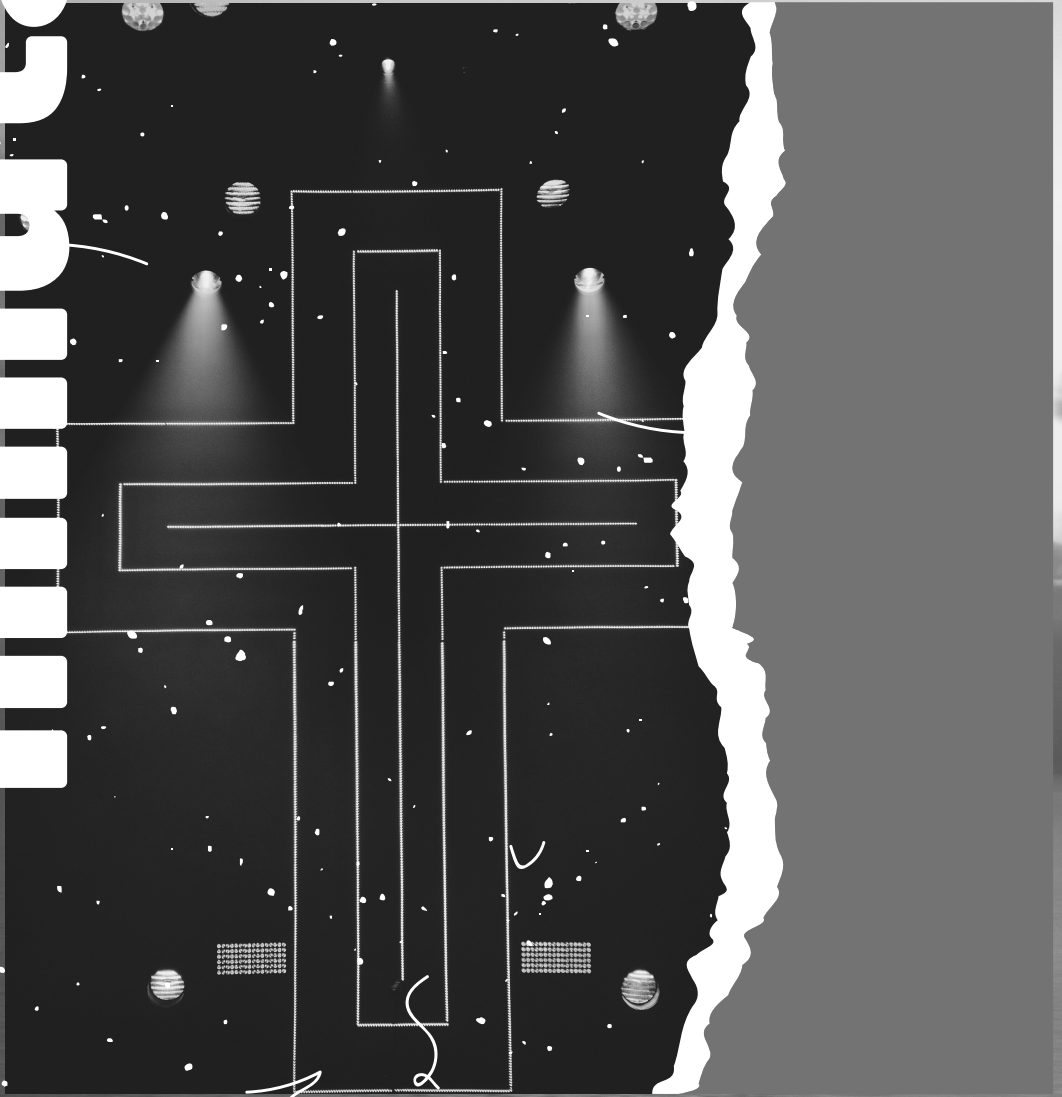
What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 5

Immutable



GETTING STARTED

IMMUTABLE: God is unchanging. His nature and sovereign plan does not change.

Hebrews 6:9-20 Context Notes:

The book of Hebrews was written by an anonymous author to Jewish Christians living in the later half of the first century. The author's primary concern is to present Christ as superior to all Old Testament heroes and figures as the ultimate expression of God's power and saving love.

In 6:9-20, the author is reminding the audience of God's eternal promises and the hope we have because he is certain to keep his word. Believers have an unshakable hope in God because of his proven, trustworthy character.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

HEBREWS 6:9-20 (NASB)

⁹ But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

¹³ For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." ¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. ¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, ²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage? Did you learn anything new about God? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What does this passage say about God?

How does this knowledge of God affect me? Why should I care?

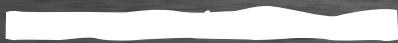
What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 6

KID HOIY



GETTING STARTED

HOLY: God is utterly unique and absolutely separate from sin and evil. He is righteous and pure in everything He does.

Isaiah 6:1-8 Context Notes:

[See Notes from Isaiah 40:12-26 on pg. 7 for background on the book of Isaiah]

In chapter 6, the prophet Isaiah describes his calling as an encounter from God in a vision. In the vision, Isaiah is transported to the heavenly throne where he is overwhelmed by the majesty and glory of the Holy One. As he is amazed by the splendor of God's presence, he is also overcome by knowledge of his own sin and unrighteousness before God.

Revelation 15:1-4 Context Notes:

Revelation is a letter written to seven ancient churches by the Apostle John as he was in exile on the island of Patmos. Each of the congregations addressed at the beginning of the letter were in critical moments of their lives as churches. John wrote both to rebuke and encourage the churches and to encourage them to remain faithful to Christ in the face of persecution.

After John specifically addresses the churches, he describes a series of visions given to him by Jesus of the cosmic struggle that will culminate in Christ's victory over evil and the inauguration of a new age as sin and death are fully and finally defeated.

In 15:1-4, John describes a vision into the heavenly throne room from where he oversees the judgement of the unrighteous and where he is praised for his holiness and glory.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

ISAIAH 6:1-8 (NASB)

6 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said,

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory.”

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said,

“Woe is me, for I am ruined!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I live among a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth *with it* and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.”

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

REVELATION 15:1-4 (NASB)

15 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, *which are* the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

² And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. ³ And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and marvelous are Your works,
O Lord God, the Almighty;
Righteous and true are Your ways,
King of the nations!
⁴ “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy;
FOR ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU,
FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.”

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage? Did you learn anything new about God? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What does this passage say about God?

How does this knowledge of God affect me? Why should I care?

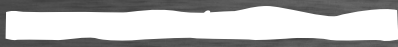
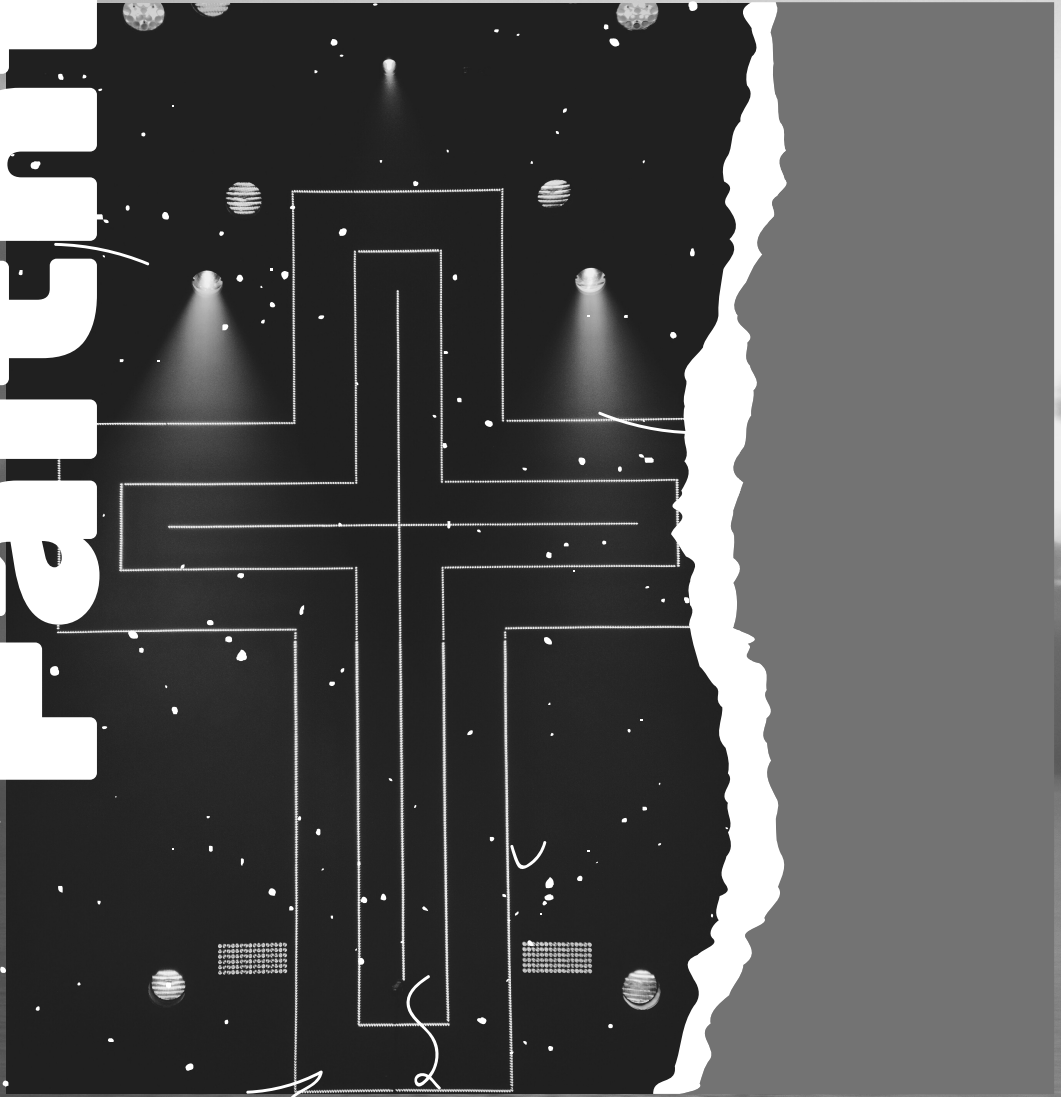
What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 7

Faithful



GETTING STARTED

FAITHFUL: God is absolutely faithful. He will always fulfill what he has said and promised.

Lamentations 3:19-32 Context Notes:

The book of Lamentations was written by the prophet Jeremiah to the Jews devastated by the Babylonian invasion and destruction of Jerusalem. Jeremiah conveys lament and grief over the destruction of Jerusalem even though judgment was rightly deserved. Yet, in spite of the destruction, hope remains for those who hope in the Lord.

In 3:19-32, Jeremiah calls the people to kindle hope as he encourages them to trust the Lord in spite of their grief and troubles.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

LAMENTATIONS 3:19-31 (NASB)

¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness.

²⁰ Surely my soul remembers

And is bowed down within me.

²¹ This I recall to my mind,

Therefore I have hope.

²² The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,

For His compassions never fail.

²³ *They* are new every morning;

Great is Your faithfulness.

²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,

"Therefore I have hope in Him."

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,

To the person who seeks Him.

²⁶ *It is* good that he waits silently

For the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷ *It is* good for a man that he should bear

The yoke in his youth.

²⁸ Let him sit alone and be silent

Since He has laid *it* on him.

²⁹ Let him put his mouth in the dust,

Perhaps there is hope.

³⁰ Let him give his cheek to the smiter,

Let him be filled with reproach.

³¹ For the Lord will not reject forever,

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage? Did you learn anything new about God? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What does this passage say about God?

How does this knowledge of God affect me? Why should I care?

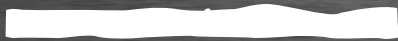
What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 8

True



GETTING STARTED

TRUE: God is the one true God. He is true in word and in knowledge. He is the measure and standard of truth.

John 8:31-47 Context Notes:

The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John, one of Jesus' disciples. John wrote his account of Jesus' life and ministry to present Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God who had the power to give eternal life to those who trust him.

In chapter 8, John records a significant dialogue where Jesus claims to be the true source of life and light. In 8:31-47, Jesus claims to be the origin and definition of truth and that those who claim to be on the side of truth will affirm his identity as from the Father.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

JOHN 8:31-47 (NASB)

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. ³⁸ I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father.”

³⁹ They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus *said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. ⁴¹ You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God.”

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage? Did you learn anything new about God? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What does this passage say about God?

How does this knowledge of God affect me? Why should I care?

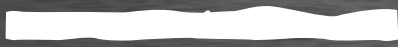
What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 9

Gracious



GETTING STARTED

GRACIOUS: God is kind toward those who deserve judgement. His unmerited favor is given in a providential sense to all men, and is granted in a special significance towards believers.

Ephesians 1:1-14 Context Notes:

[See notes on Ephesians 3:14-20 on pg. 13 for background on the book of Ephesians]

In 1:1-14, Paul introduces his letter by explaining the spiritual blessings believers have because of Christ's work. He gives special attention to the gifts and rewards that God who, by grace, grants to all believers.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

EPHESIANS 1:1-14 (NASB)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

APPLY: What did I learn?

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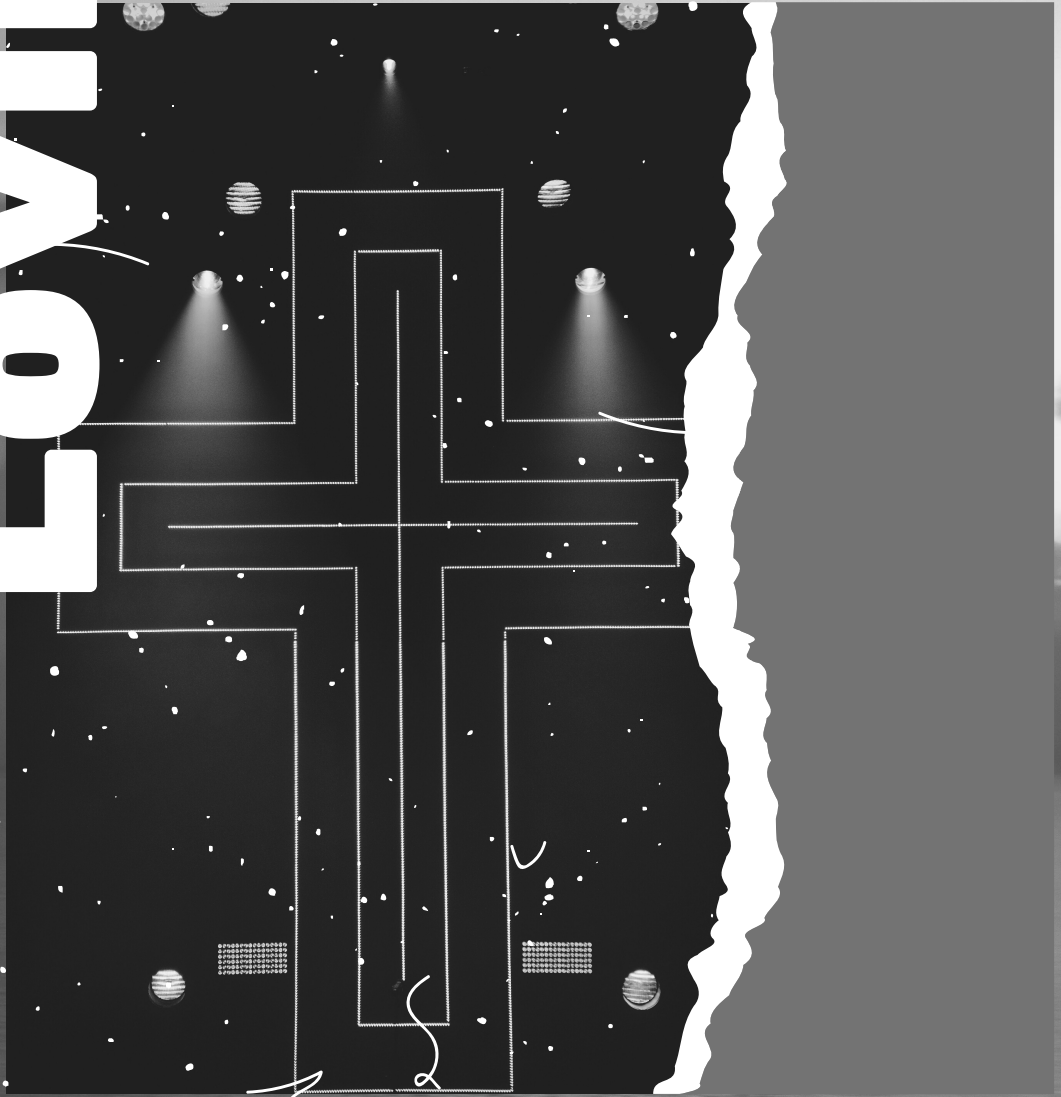
What do I need to do in response to this?

MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WEEK 10

Loving



GETTING STARTED

LOVING: God's essential character is other-focused and self-giving to others.

1 Corinthians 13 Context Notes:

Paul wrote the letter of Corinthians to a local church in the wealthy, multicultural city of Corinth to rebuke where they had strayed from the loving, holy example of Christ and to call them to recommit themselves to lives of holiness and gospel-centered unity.

In chapter 13, Paul presents love as an essential quality and mark of the Christian.

Read the passage(s) on the next page. How does this contextual information above help you understand the passage(s) better?

1 CORINTHIANS 13 (NASB)

13 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part; **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. **11** When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. **13** But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

OBSERVE: What does it say?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

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MY NOTES

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS